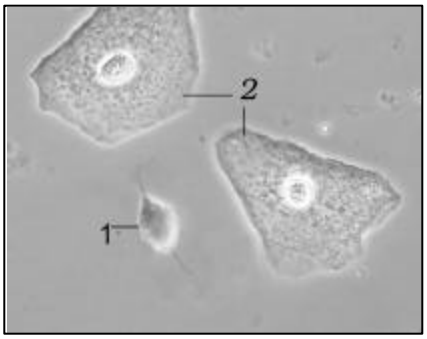
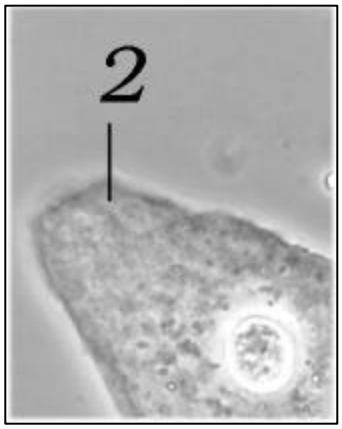
Wet Mount Proficiency Test 2004 B Critique

Micrograph A at 500X

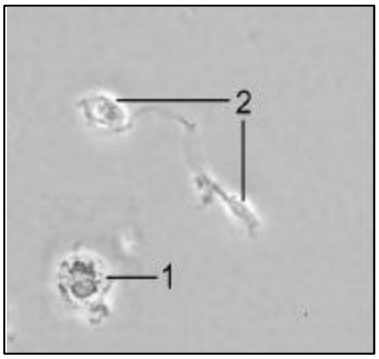


1 2
[ ] [X] Squamous epithelial cell(s) – not clue cells
[X] [ ] Trichomonas(s)



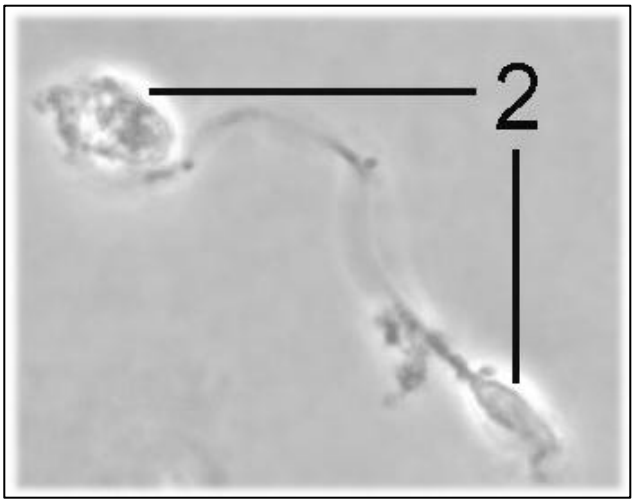
This micrograph contains a tear drop shaped Trichomonas with faintly visible flagella at each end (**Object 1**). **Object 2** indicates two squamous epithelial cells with very clearly defined nuclei and edges; they are not clue cells. Clue cells would be covered with bacteria and their intracellular details (nucleus) and edges would be completely obscured: that is not the case here.

Micrograph B at 1000x

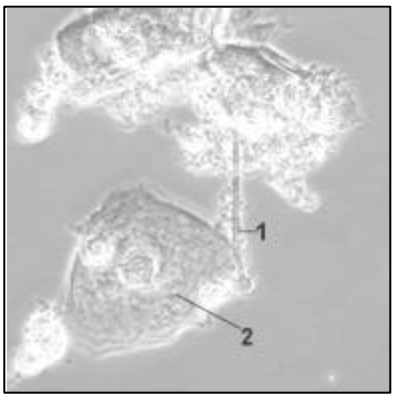


1 2
[X] [ ] White blood cell(s)
[ ] [X] Sperm cell(s)

Object 1 is a white blood cell with a typical lobate nucleus. Some cytoplasm seems to be leaking out of the cell near the bottom, this would not be at all unusual if the specimen were observed more than 30 minutes after collection (which was the case here). **Object 2** indicates two sperm cells that seem to be attached tail to tail. Again, the age of the specimen before observation could yield damaged cells. This could also occur if the cells in situ were more than a few hours old which would be the case in most vaginal specimens.



Micrograph C at 500x



1 2
[ ] [X] Squamous epithelial cell(s) – not a clue cell
[X] [ ] Pseudohyphae

Object 1 is a pseudohyphae with a budding yeast cell at the tip. Note that the width of the pseudohyphae does not change, whereas the tail of a sperm (above) demonstrates a definite taper toward the end.. Furthermore, the yeast cell budding at the tip of the pseudohyphae is quite round and not the oval shape of a sperm head. **Object 2** is an ordinary squamous epithelial cell with well defined nucleus and edges and the cytoplasm is clear; it is not a clue cell. The edge of the epithelial cell is clearly visible as is the nucleus.